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# The Arab People Hold the Key to Victory

IN the situation of a "no war, no peace" deadlock imposed on the Middle East by the two superpowers, the Arab people in 1972 carried out a heroic struggle to recover the occupied territories and regain the national rights of the Palestinian people. During the year, the Palestinian people and guerrillas overcame many difficulties and persevered in armed struggle to deal repeated blows at the Israeli aggressors; the people and armed forces of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and other countries, fighting for national defence, more than once repulsed Israeli military provocations and armed intrusions; and the anti-imperialist unity of the Arab countries and people is being further strengthened. The "Hussein plan" and other schemes aimed at strangling the Palestine revolution and attacking the Arab countries one by one which were contrived by one superpower with the tacit consent of the other have failed so far as a result of the opposition of the Arab people. The heroic and just struggle of the Arab people has won praise and support from the people of the whole world.

### Cast Off Yoke of "No War, No Peace"

Bitter experience has taught the Arab people that the state of "no war, no peace" is the result of the two superpowers' contention for hegemony in the Middle East. To grab spheres of influence and strategic areas in the region and seize petroleum resources there, both the United States and the Soviet Union want to maintain a tense Middle East situation, but not so tense as to cause a direct U.S.-Soviet military confrontation. Manoeuvring in their desperate contention on the one hand, they came to a secret tacit agreement on the other to avoid direct military conflict through the Moscow summit talks and other channels, using Arab national interests as chips in counter-revolutionary political deals. As the Lebanese paper *Al Hayat* said in an article "Things have become clear in the past two years, particularly the last few months. Doubtlessly they testify to the co-operation, understanding, and entente established for years between the Russians and the Americans as far as the Middle East is concerned, and their plotting and co-ordination over questions concerning our destiny."

In this struggle, U.S. imperialism tried hard to impose the consequences of the "June 5" war of aggression on the Arab people in one way or another by taking advantage of the "no war, no peace" deadlock.

It continued to arm Israel and instigated it to make armed attacks and provocations against Arab countries. At the same time, it set various "partial solution" political traps to this end. Soviet revisionist social-imperialism paid lip-service to opposing U.S.-Israeli aggression, but, just as one Arab paper pointed out, "the Soviet Union is in fact seeking the establishment of the present fait accompli and further complicating it so as to enable itself to keep a firm hold over the region and keep it always weak and in need of the Soviet Union."

The "no war, no peace" stalemate imposed by the superpowers has been widely criticized by Arab public opinion. It has become a strong call of the Arab world to get rid of the two overlords' control, break the deadlock, liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore the Palestinian people's national rights.

### Tear Off the Veil of "Friendship"

It is comparatively easy to deal with an overt enemy but very difficult to guard against an enemy in the guise of a "friend." The Kuwait paper *Al-Rai al-Amm* said that such a "friend" has put on "the veil of friendship coupled with enmity." The veil of "friendship" of Soviet revisionist social-imperialism was torn off by the Arab people in 1972.

Didn't social-imperialism advertise its "friendship" and "assistance" by selling weapons to the Arab countries? But it attached several "no's" to the arms sales: no selling of offensive weapons; no permission to use the weapons sold to recover the lost territories; no adequate supply of ammunition and spare parts; and no handing over to the buyer of some of the weapons sold but keeping them in the hands of its own military personnel. The Egyptian paper *Al-Ahram* commented aptly on such "assistance," saying "the Soviet military presence in Egypt became something of an ornament — mere form and no function."

Soviet weapons are nothing more than an ornament when it comes to resisting U.S. and Israeli aggression, but they become weapons in the full sense of the word for the control, intervention and plunder of the countries receiving "aid." Coming on the heels of Soviet-made weapons are certain "demands": demands for privileges, for military bases, for natural resources and for money. The Egyptian weekly *Akhbar el-Yom* pointed out: "The Soviet Union benefited as an ornament dealer without fulfilling Egypt's demands."

As the Soviet revisionists time and again refused to provide Egypt with offensive weapons, President Sadat announced on July 18, 1972 the decision to "terminate the mission of the Soviet military advisers in Egypt." He declared that the Soviet military installations and equipment built inside Egyptian territory would become the property of Egypt. This bold decision of the Egyptian Government won warm support from the Egyptian people and extensive praise from Arab public opinion. It evoked strong reaction all over the world.

With the tacit agreement of the United States, the Soviet Union has sent large numbers of Jews in the U.S.S.R. to Israel, thus tearing into shreds its veil of "friendship." According to Israeli official sources, 30,000 Jews arrived in Israel from the Soviet Union in 1972. This figure surpassed the total number of Jews going to Israel in the previous 11 years.

The Arab people have come to know how this "friend" has "assisted" them to eliminate the consequences of U.S.-Israeli aggression. The Egyptian weekly *Akhbar el-Yom* hit the nail on the head when it said: "If the United States is supplying Israel with arms, then the Soviet Union is supplying Israel with immigrants who carry these arms."

#### **Arab People Determine Their Own Destiny**

Papers and magazines in some big powers have been arguing whether the key to the solution of the Middle East question lies in Washington or Moscow. But far-sighted public opinion in the Arab world says: "No, it lies in neither of them, but in the hands of the Arab people!" The key to victory is to rely on their own efforts, strengthen their unity and persist in the protracted struggle.

Houari Boumedienne, President of the Algerian Council of Revolution, noted that the Arabs should rely neither on the Soviet Union nor on the United States to settle their conflict with Israel. "Neither of them [the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.], nor any of the so-called big powers have the right to determine the destiny of the world, or the destiny of any of the world's peoples." "Late in the 20th century, the people, after being in-

spired by the spirit of revolution and liberation, are more able to solve their questions by relying on themselves and their own resources," stressed the weekly *Al Masirah*, published by the Palestine National Liberation Movement (Al Fateh).

The Arab world took many steps in 1972 to strengthen its unity and co-ordinate its stand. The emergency session of the Palestinian National Council and the Palestinian People's Congress held in Cairo in April were important steps for strengthening unity among the Palestinian people, persisting in armed struggle and winning victory in the revolution. The leaders of Arab countries exchanged visits last year and some Arab states merged in one form or another. The meeting of the Arab League Council in Cairo in September and the November Conference of the Arab Foreign and Defence Ministers in Kuwait demonstrated that the Arab countries hope to mobilize Arab potentiality in the common struggle against the enemy through unremitting efforts.

The Arab people's struggle against aggression and control is now merging with the struggle of the Mediterranean countries to drive out the U.S. and Soviet fleets and make the Mediterranean a sea of security, with the struggle of the Gulf countries to free the area from the superpowers' contention, and with the struggle of oil-producing countries in the Middle East to defend national rights and interests. It demonstrates the common resolve of the people in the Middle East never to be parcelled out wilfully by the superpowers and never to be pushed around by power politics, but to decide their own destiny themselves.

The Arab people's just struggle is closely linked with the struggle of the third world countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America against the two overlords and is in concert with the trend among European countries to shake off the control of the two overlords and maintain their independence. Enjoying the sympathy and support of the peoples of the world, the 100 million Arab people, relying on their own strength, strengthening unity and persisting in protracted struggle, will certainly win!